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STATE FOR EUR/NB AND S/CT (REAP)
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SUBJECT: LITHUANIA: 2004 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 245841

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1. (U) Post submits the annual terrorism report for Lithuania. Embassy's update on Lithuania for the Department's 2004 Patterns of Global Terrorism report (reftel) is in paras 2-4.

2. (SBU) Lithuania has been fully supportive of the war against terrorism. Lithuania is implementing the National Security Strategy of October 2004 and has nearly completed its National Counter-terrorism Program of January 2002. The counter-terrorism plans include: participation in the international fight against terrorism; expanding and sharing resources; defending possible targets and infrastructure; identifying terrorists, their groups, and supporters; identifying and cutting off sources of terrorist finances; clarifying the procedures for investigating terrorist cases; strengthening rapid reaction and crisis management capabilities; strengthening of counter-terrorist intelligence; and strengthening of internal economic and social security in general.

3. (SBU) Lithuania has also sent troops and other military personnel to Afghanistan and Iraq. Since November 2002, Lithuanian Special Operation Forces have participated in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. About 120 Lithuanian troops and logistics specialists operate in Iraq. In September, Parliament voted to extend the missions to Afghanistan and Iraq (and also the Balkans) until the end of 2005. The Government also pledged modest financial assistance to Iraqi reconstruction and training of Iraqi forces.

4. (SBU) Lithuania is a party to all 12 international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings. The Government has been very cooperative in investigating and detecting potential terrorist finances.

ADDENDUM SUMMARY

5. (SBU) Lithuania has cooperated with international counter-terrorist initiatives, and has supported USG efforts to prevent international terrorist organizations from taking root in Lithuania. The GOL has increased funding of its security, expanded and strengthened intelligence collection, stepped up border controls, and is working to adopt a new National Counter Terrorism Program. The information that follows is keyed to reftel addendum questions. End Addendum Summary.

-A-

6. (SBU) The GOL has fully supported the global coalition against terrorism through contributing to operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, the ratification of international counter-terrorism-related conventions, efforts to block terrorist assets, and the development of new counter-terrorism legal mechanisms. Since November 2002, a group of up to 50 Lithuanian Special Operation Forces and logistics specialists has served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan (officially in "Central and Southern Asia"). About 120 Lithuanian troops and logistics specialists have operated in Iraq since summer 2003. In September, their term of duty was extended until the end of 2005.

7. (SBU) In March, Lithuania acceded to the EU Code of Conduct in Arms Export. In October, Lithuania updated its 2002 National Security Strategy to reflect its membership in NATO and the EU. It has also implemented more than 90 percent of its January 2002 National Counter-Terrorism Program, which focused on: participation in international

fight against terrorism; expanding and sharing CT resources; defending possible targets and infrastructure; identifying terrorists, their groups, and supporters; identifying and cutting off sources of terrorist finances; clarifying the procedures for investigating terrorist cases; strengthening rapid reaction and crisis management capabilities; strengthening of counter-terrorist intelligence; and strengthening of internal economic and social security in general. In September, the State Defense Council charged the State Security Department to strengthen terrorism prevention and draft a new CT Program focusing on blocking terrorists' assets and income by tackling drug trafficking, smuggling, illegal migration and human trafficking.

18. (SBU) Lithuania's State Security Department (SSD) is tasked to prevent terrorism in the country in cooperation with other state institutions (the MoD, Customs, Border Protection Service, the Police) and foreign secret services. In April, the SSD joined the Club of Berne, which includes intelligence services of EU countries, Norway, and Switzerland, and is working to implement the European Council Declaration on combating terrorism. In February 2002, the GOL established the Interagency Coordination Commission Against Terrorism headed by the head of the SSD. In September, the Chief Police Commissioner was invited to join the Commission. Lithuania is also working to improve information-sharing among major agencies involved in flagging and tracking suspicious transactions -- the Prosecutor General's Office, the Financial Crime Investigation Service under the Ministry of Interior, the State Insurance Supervising Service, the State Securities Commission, and the Bank of Lithuania (BL).

19. (SBU) Lithuania has ratified all 12 major international conventions regarding counter-terrorism and has implemented the relevant UNSCRs. In December 2003, the Parliament ratified the 2001 International Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, which Lithuania signed in June 1998. In November, Lithuania signed a protocol partially revising the 1977 European Convention on counter-terrorism measures. In September, Lithuania hosted a meeting of the European Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (EUROSAI, established in 1990), which set up a permanent body to fight money laundering for terrorism.

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110. (SBU) To the Embassy's knowledge, there has been no prosecution relating to terrorism in Lithuania in 2004, although some GOL investigations pointed to or may eventually reveal terrorist connections (see para 13).

111. (SBU) During the year, the Government has continued efforts to fight widespread corruption in the State Border Protection Service and Customs, stepped up the screening of money transfers and protection of classified information.

112. (SBU) In fall of 2002, the GOL corrected laws that had previously allowed the Kaunas-based company Aviabaltika to supply spare parts of military and dual-use helicopters to Sudan. The Lithuanian security services have monitored Aviabaltika's commercial activities since the end of 1999. In January 2003, the Civil Aviation Department allowed the Kaunas-based company Helisota to fly a repaired Mi-17 helicopter to the United Arab Emirates. Earlier, the Customs Department had stopped the planned transportation of the helicopter to Sudan. In January in the Lithuanian seaport of Klaipeda, the GOL seized three Russian-made Mi-8 helicopters en route from Bangladesh to Aviabaltika's Kaunas headquarters and later to Russia. Following an official investigation, the helicopters were released months later.

113. (SBU) In 2003, a two-year long investigation by the SSD revealed an IRA terrorist finance-related smuggling ring which involved four judges (who were fired in July 2003, and which could have involved politicians. In October 2004, the SSD detected a major group of document forgers supplying identity documents to criminal groups that were sold primarily to illegal immigrants for use in Lithuania and the EU. In November 2004, the SSD arrested a well-organized group minting high quality fake 100-euro banknotes. At the time of the arrest, the Police seized counterfeit notes valued at nine million euro. In May, Lithuania amended its Money Laundering Law. The amendments shortened the time needed to investigate money laundering cases; enabled the Division of Prevention of Money Laundering (FIU) to block assets in two days, without a court order; and enabled Lithuanian banks and credit institutions to stop suspicious banking operations without a court order, inform the FIU within 3 hours, and freeze accounts within 24. Bank of Lithuania officials say that, to date, no terrorist accounts have been identified in Lithuania.

114. (SBU) In September, the SSD closed the pro-Chechen

website Kavkaz-Center for the second time (it was first closed in June 2003), following expert analysis that it contained information related to terrorism and religious and national enmity. In November, a Lithuanian provider opened a "mirror" of the main server of Kavkaz, which had moved to Sweden. The SSD is attempting to close the website through the court system.

15. (SBU) In August 2003, the Lithuanian MFA banned Chechen fighter Basayev from entering Lithuania and purchasing weapons here due to his ties with the al-Qaeda terrorist network.

16. (SBU) Numerous GOL agencies are working closely with the Embassy to counter the threat that terrorism posed to Lithuanian and U.S. interests. The State Security Department, the "Aras" Counter Terrorism response team (under the Ministry of Interior), and the Police Department have offered excellent support to strengthen the Embassy's security posture at times of heightened terrorist threat. These organizations have worked effectively to uncover the existence of (a small number of) individuals affiliated with international terrorist organizations (Hamas, Hezbollah, and Russian criminal groups).

17. (SBU) Since September 11, 2001, the GOL has stepped up security at the U.S. Embassy, GOL facilities, and strategic locations such as the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant. GOL leaders, often acting with other countries, NATO, and the EU, have condemned terrorist attacks across the world. The GOL has fully backed the fight against terrorism, including by sending Lithuanian soldiers to participate in the GWOT.

18. (SBU) In June 2003, the GOL supported the EU position not to sign an agreement on immunity from the International Criminal Court for U.S. troops. (Note: Lithuania has signed but not yet ratified the Rome Treaty.) The GOL expressed hope that the USG decision to cancel its military support over the article 98 of the ICC is not final, and that the USG-EU dialogue will achieve "acceptable decisions."

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19. (SBU) Lithuania strengthened counter-terrorism measures following the March bombings in Madrid. In April, Lithuania signed the NATO Declaration on Terrorism. The GOL is closely coordinating terrorism-related migration issues with the EU. In October 2001, the GOL and the USG signed an extradition treaty. There have been no reports of terrorism-related deportations in 2004. In 2002, the GOL deported (apparently to their home country) six Lebanese nationals who were members of Hamas. The GOL deported at least one individual linked to international terrorist organizations in 2001, and five individuals (several of them Lebanese nationals) in 2000. To the Embassy's knowledge, the GOL has not received extradition requests from other countries, or requested extradition of suspected terrorists for prosecution during the year. In October 2001, the State Security Department gave MPs a list of terrorist organizations that could have members in Lithuania: al Qaeda was not on the list, but Hezbollah was. In previous years, the State Security Department tracked Kurdish, Sikh, and Abu Jihad al-Islam terrorists who posed as refugees traveling via Lithuania to the West.

-E/F-

20. (SBU) The SSD has invested heavily over the past two years to procure modern interception equipment. The Criminal Process Code requires a judge's authorization for the search of premises of an individual, including terrorists; in most cases, such permission is granted. The seizure, monitoring, and recording of information transmitted through telecommunications networks or surveillance must also be court-ordered. Intelligence (e.g., voice recordings) verified by criminal experts is permitted as evidence in a court of law. Under the law, police may detain suspects for up to 48 hours, based upon reliable evidence of criminal activity and approval by an investigator or prosecutor. Pretrial detention applies only in the case of felonies, to prevent flight, to allow unhindered investigation if the suspect might commit new crimes, or when there is an extradition request. Suspected detained terrorists, like other criminals, are barred from telephone or e-mail access. However, criminals frequently violate this prohibition in practice. The detaining authority routinely collects photographs, fingerprints, and DNA samples.

21. (SBU) Since September 2001, the GOL has permitted U.S. aircraft to overfly its national airspace. The GOL, together with the other Baltic states, has provided full

data from the Baltic Air Surveillance Network (BALTNET) to the NATO air defense system. In April, BALTNET joined the NATO airspace surveillance system. Since March, NATO fighter planes have been deployed in Lithuania to provide air policing over Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

122. (SBU) In October 2002, the Lithuanian MoD and the U.S. DoD signed an agreement on cooperation in prevention of proliferation of mass destruction weapons. The USG has trained Lithuanian personnel and donated equipment worth several hundred thousand dollars to the Lithuanian Customs Department and State Border Protection Service. The equipment, which includes mobile and stationary X-ray and radioactivity detection tools, has strengthened Lithuania's land border, airport, and port security infrastructure. In February, a USG-sponsored WMD and illicit materials detection and data transfer system valued at \$4.2 million dollars was opened at Vilnius International Airport; it is linked to a U.S. monitoring station in Washington, D.C. Senior GOL officials, however, admitted that control and security is still inadequate at some smaller airports. In September, the GOL opened a new, USG-funded security and diversion detection system at the nuclear waste repository in Maisiagala. Also in September, the USTDA signed an agreement with Lithuania to fund a safety study at the port of Klaipeda, and the GOL hosted a FBI Post Blast Investigation exercise for Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian specialists.

123. (SBU) In June, Lithuania ratified an agreement on cooperation in fighting terrorism, organized crime, and drug trafficking with Turkey. Lithuania has similar treaties in force with Kazakhstan (since August 2001), Germany (since June 2002), and Hungary (since October 2002). In June, Lithuania joined a Russian-NATO military exercise that simulated a terrorist attack on an oil platform in the Baltic Sea near Kaliningrad.

124. (SBU) The GOL continued to reinforce the protection of Lithuania's borders with Belarus and Russia. In May 2003, Russia ratified the bilateral border agreement. Since early April 2002, Lithuania has deployed an anti-aircraft missile battery near the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant to protect it from possible terrorist attacks. In November 2004, the GOL augmented the air defenses around Ignalina by deploying a short-range RBS-70 air defense missile system.

125. (SBU) Lithuania continued to support Georgia in the fight against terrorism by contributing to a training and supply program for Georgia's military units.

126. (SBU) The Ministry of Interior has reorganized two of its regiments into public security units tasked to fight terrorists.

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127. (SBU) The GOL does not support international terrorism, terrorists, or terrorist groups. The GOL acts promptly to prevent any ties between terrorists, terrorist groups, or terrorist-supporting countries with Lithuania.

128. (SBU) The GOL has made no public statements in support of a terrorist-supporting country on a terrorism-related issue.

129. (SBU) The GOL has consistently supported the global coalition against terrorism and has further strengthened intelligence gathering and counter-terrorism activities. The GOL is also increasing defense funding. The ongoing army reform, among others, will allow for greater interoperability with allied troops during international counter-terrorist operations.

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